

Traffic Advisory Committee minutes for Wednesday, October 22, 2003

In attendance: M.J. Frisoli, L. Nickens, A. Masciari, T. Riley, T. Turner, T. Olsen, M. Gavin, and P. Curro; Tom Gatzunis, Director of Community Development, K. Hamilton, BPD;

Also attending; M. D'Andrea, W. Engstrom, P. Marinelli, K. Allis, _ Kelly, _ Kelly.

7:05 p.m. Meeting called to order

Administrative items:

1. Minutes from previous TAC meetings. After reviewing the minutes from 09-10, **TR** moved that the TAC accept them without revision. Seconded by LN, the motion passed 5-0.
2. Letter from Sandra Curro, Selectmens' Office regarding meeting notification. Sandra Curro of the Selectmens' Office notified the Chairs of all town committees that, whenever possible, meeting announcements will be routinely send via email to reduce postage costs.

Report from T. Gatzunis, OCD (7:18 p.m.)

- Modifications planned for Trapelo Rd. at Hawthorne St. have been delayed by the contractor, D&R Paving,
- The traffic count at School & Washington St. indicate problem meeting the warrant for an "All-Way" stop sign. There was a major discrepancy between the machine (tube) counts and the manned counts. On that basis, **TG** believes that a second manned count is warranted. **TR** and **MF** both believe that the intersection is sufficiently hazardous that the Selectmen ought to override the warrant

Report from Sgt. Hamilton, BPD

- (7:32 p.m.). In regards to the pending case against Mr. Patterson, the driver involved in the fatal pedestrian accident on July 30, 2003, **KH** reported that at a magistrates hearing held on October 15, the defendant was charged on all three counts (failure to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk, driving to endanger, and vehicular homicide). Arraignment is tentatively scheduled for November 21 in Middlesex District Court; **KH** believes that the case is likely to go to trial.
- (7:45 p.m.) Results of traffic counts on Marlboro St were distributed to the Committee, and a detailed discussion ensued. There were opinions on both sides of the question as to whether a turn restriction (No Right Turn, 4-6 p.m.) on Trapelo Rd. onto Marlboro and Oxford Sts. would be desirable. **TT** argued that a neighborhood ought to be allowed some latitude with regards to controlling traffic, and since there are so few measures allowed within legal guidelines, he moved that the TAC move forward on the process of implementing such a restriction. **TO** seconded the motion, which passed 6-1. A public hearing on the matter was scheduled for Wednesday November 12, and all interested parties will be notified.
- (8:34 p.m.) In regards to the letter from Mr. Harrington (see minutes from Sept. 10, 2003), Mr. Brownsberger has asked the TAC to "revisit" the issues raised, and consider a "No Turn on Red" restriction at Common St and Trapelo Rd.. **TG** stated that there was a five-year moratorium on changes to the design of that intersection placed by Mass Highways, who funded its construction in part. The five year period has expired, and so the town may consider such a change. **TO** proposed lengthening the light cycle, but **TG** pointed out that such a measure would require a traffic study. **LN** recommended the idea of placing a "Yield to Pedestrian" cone in the intersection, and **TO** made a motion to place such cones in a newly painted international design

crosswalk at this intersection, seconded by MG. AM motion to amend by placing a “No Right on Red” sign at the intersection was withdrawn. The motion passed 7-0. TT adds that the safest route for Mr. Harrington would involve walking one block east to Willow St. so that he could cross in the soon-to-be-constructed neck-down on Trapelo Rd.

Final remarks. MF reported that the design funding for the Bright Rd./Blanchard St. intersection is up in the air.

(9:10 p.m.) Guest Paolo Marinelli spoke to commend the Town of Belmont on the significant improvements in crosswalks all over town. He reports that he has asked town officials in Arlington to visit Belmont to witness the improvements.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:12 p.m.